



## **Alert**

Prepared by the  
**Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)**

September 19, 2005

### **ATTENTION - NIGERIAN 419 SCHEME MANIPULATING HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS.**

The FBI has become aware of spam emails crafted in the style of a Nigerian 419 schemes, exploiting the loss of lives attributable to Hurricane Katrina disaster. The email continues with instructions on how the recipient can claim money left behind, in an overseas bank account, by the next of kin. In some instances, in exchange for helping to move the funds, a portion of the inheritance is purported to be donated to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. One version of the scam actually states family members have died in both the Thailand Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

### **THESE EMAILS ARE A HOAX. DO NOT RESPOND.**

Other disasters Nigerian 419 schemes have attempted to capitalize on include: London Bombings; September 11, 2001; and various airplane crashes.

When opening emails from unknown authors, please consider the following:

- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as Nigerian or foreign government officials asking for your help in placing large sums of money.
- Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation.
- Guard your account information carefully.
- To ensure contributions to U.S. based non-profit organizations are received and used for intended purposes, go directly to recognized charities and aid organizations' websites, as opposed to relying on others to make the donation on your behalf.

If you have received this, or similar hoax, please file a complaint at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).